

frozen at 39°, at Nulato, whilst the alcohol thermometer at St. Michael's marked 53° ; from which we may infer that, at Nulato, the latter would have marked at least 60° (or 93° below freezing). The first five days of that mission we found water on the ice, under the snow, and as we had no snow-shoes, our feet were soaked and then, in a few minutes, entirely covered with ice both inside and out our deer-skin boots. Be not surprised at hearing of water on the ice during such a tremendous cold : the water of the river becomes gradually lower, and the crust of ice remains suspended, (there being a vacuum between it and the river's surface;) then, naturally the ice bends and cracks, water issues through the opening, and the two or three feet of snow that covers the ice prevent the water from being frozen for a long time. I mentioned the 31st a while ago. It was then that I had my ears, cheeks, nose and chin considerably frost-bitten ; so much so that on my return to Nulato, Father Mandart hardly knew me. During that mission I instructed the Indians at « Alexi Barrabarra, » at « Nohoitliltota » « Anwik » « Banio, » « Kojirofski, » « Poimut, » « Gargarishapka, » and in a few barrabarras where I found isolated families.

At Poimut, I could no more use my interpreter, as it is quite a different language which is spoken there ; but I was fortunate enough to find everywhere either one or more Indians that understood and spoke the Russian. The language of the Poimut Indians extends over the main land in a southern direction, that is, over the Kuuskokwin and Koodiac Island, the inhabitants of which speak the same language substantially as the Poimuts. East of Poimut, one language is spoken, with a few differences of dialects, on the Youcon River as far as the Rocky Mountains, and on the Lenana as far as